

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1, 7 and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for conducting an interview on May 17, 2006. During that interview, the prior art reference to Yura was discussed and the Examiner suggested a claim amendment to further clarify that the only fixing nip is formed by the one-piece nip forming member.

Claims 1 and 7 were objected to due to various informalities. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to overcome this objection. Applicant requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Yura, U.S. Patent No. 6,795,678. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites "a one-piece nip forming member . . . wherein the only fixing nip is formed by the one-piece nip forming member." Yura fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

Yura discloses two fixing nips, L1 and L2. Claim 1 recites that the only fixing nip is forming by a one-piece nip forming member. Since Yura discloses two fixing nips, Yura cannot teach or suggest a one-piece nip forming member wherein the only fixing nip is formed by the one-piece nip forming member.

Claims 7 and 12 also recite this feature, and are thus allowable for the same reasons. The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yura. Claim 3 is allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 1 and because Yura fails to teach all of the features for which it is cited. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yura in view of Okayasu, U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020085866. Claim 4 is allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 1 and because Yura fails to teach all of the features for which it is cited and Okayasu fails to overcome the deficiencies of Yura. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yura, in view of Hirano, JP 3661238075A. Claim 9 is allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 7 and because Yura fails to teach all of the features for which it is cited and Hirano fails to overcome the deficiencies of Yura. Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 11 and 12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 of copending Application No. 10/805,221. Since this rejection is provisional, however, Applicant need file a terminal disclaimer only when one of these applications issues as a patent and respectfully declines to do so now.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 11 and 12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8-10 of copending Application No. 10/805,228. Since this rejection is provisional, however, Applicant need file a terminal disclaimer only when one of these applications issues as a patent and respectfully declines to do so now.

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 10-12 and 15 of copending Application No. 10/805,250. Since this rejection is provisional, however, Applicant need file a terminal disclaimer only when one of these applications issues as a patent and respectfully declines to do so now.

Claim 9 is provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 6 of copending Application No. 10/805,221 in

view of Hirano. Since this rejection is provisional, however, Applicant need file a terminal disclaimer only when one of these applications issues as a patent and respectfully declines to do so now.

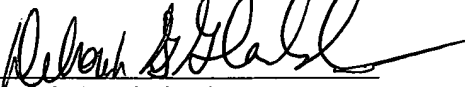
Claim 9 is provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 6 and 9 of copending Application No. 10/805,228 in view of Hirano. Since this rejection is provisional, however, Applicant need file a terminal disclaimer only when one of these applications issues as a patent and respectfully declines to do so now.

Claim 9 is provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 11 of copending Application No. 10/805,228 with the mold release layer as taught by Hirano in order to prevent wear. Since this rejection is provisional, however, Applicant need file a terminal disclaimer only when one of these applications issues as a patent and respectfully declines to do so now.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 204552032600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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